

ANTH / RELI 2550A Religion and Society
Carleton University
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
and College of the Humanities: Religion
Day Division, Fall Term 2008

Instructor	Tom Sherwood	Telephone	520-4449
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Office hours	Monday to Thursday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. An appointment is usually a good idea, but not always necessary.		
Time	Monday 2:35 to 5:25 pm	Term	Fall
Place	Southam Hall 306	Credit	0.5

Description (as in the Undergraduate Calendar, 2008-2009, page 219)

Cross-cultural survey of religious institutions, focussing on theories and methodologies in the study of religion. Topics may include myth, totemism, cults, ritual, belief systems, altered states of consciousness, new religious and/or new age movements and the relationship of religion with other social institutions and processes.

(as in the Undergraduate Calendar, 2008-2009, page 415)

Cross-cultural survey of religious institutions, with attention to theories and methodologies in the study of religion. Topics include myth, totemism, cults, ritual, altered states of consciousness and the relationship of religion with other social institutions and processes.

Rationale This course is an introductory survey of anthropological and sociological approaches to the study of religion. It traces the historical development of the subdiscipline, reviews the major theoretical perspectives, reviews the basic conceptual vocabulary, and discusses some of the issues and problems in research methodology.

Prerequisite SOCI 1001 and SOCI 1002, or ANTH 1001 and ANTH 1002, and second-year standing, or permission of the Department.

Instruments of Evaluation

The Evaluation Procedures of the university are described in the Undergraduate Calendar beginning on page 39. Final grades are subject to the Dean's approval and are not official until that approval has been received.

There are three instruments of evaluation. As stated in the Academic Regulations of the University, Section 2.1, students must complete all term papers and examinations to obtain credit for this course.

1. Term Test 20% of the Final Grade, in class October 6
2. Research Essay 40% of the Final Grade, due by noon November 20
3. Final Examination 40% of the Final Grade, as scheduled in December.

The Term Test will be given in class on October 6.

There will be a separate handout describing terms of reference for the Research Essay.

The Final Examination will be given in the regular university time slot for exams. You must write the examination at the scheduled time (unless you have an official conflict

with another exam at the same time). Only illness or other such formal reason will allow you to write at a different time. When you take this course you contract to be available for the examination at the scheduled time. If you miss the examination, please follow the usual procedures for illness, etc. An individual or “make-up” examination cannot be accommodated.

There are no supplemental and grade-raising examinations allowed in the Arts and Social Sciences Faculty at this time.

Text – Required Reading

Stein, Rebecca L. and Philip L. Stein

2008/2005 The Anthropology of Religion, Magic and Witchcraft
Allyn and Bacon, Boston.

This was a new text in 2005, designed for courses like 2550. It is very strong in ethnography, case studies, and the presentation of the conceptual vocabulary of anthropology of religion. It is weak in its presentation of theory and issues of methodology. The lectures will compensate for this.

Note: The second edition (2008) of this text is highly recommended. There are significant differences between the two editions, and the instructor will be using the second edition for class and examination purposes.

Lectures – Required “Reading”

The lectures review the major theoretical understandings of religion and society, a number of methodological issues and other essential material not contained in the text.

Class Time

The course is presented in one three-hour class with one break each week. Normally the “First Hour” will be a lecture, 60, 75 or 90 minutes long. After the break, the “Second Hour” will normally be a discussion of that week’s readings, although students may use the time to ask questions about the lectures or the research essay they are working on.

COURSE OUTLINE

Introduction

The Social Scientific Study of Religion

1. September 8

Introduction, orientation, organizational matters
Review of the Course Outline and Instruments of Evaluation
Introduction of the textbook and lectures.
What is religion? What is anthropology of religion?
– anthropological approaches to religion
– the problems and opportunities of definition
Stein & Stein chapter 1 – “The Anthropological Study of Religion”

Part One

Development of Major Theoretical Approaches

2. September 15

First Hour

the historical development of the anthropology of religion
Comte and positivism; Spencer, Muller, Tylor, Marett, Frazer;
origins of religion theories

Second Hour

Stein & Stein chapters 1 and 2 – introductory and basic material

3. September 22

First Hour	Durkheim's theory of religion and society positivism, functionalism and social cohesion
Second Hour	Stein & Stein chapter 2 and 3 – “Mythology” and “Religious Symbols”
4. September 29	
First Hour	Weber's contributions to understanding religion and society Weber's sociology, Protestant ethic thesis, disenchantment, Verstehen, leadership, authority, Ideal-type, church-sect typology
Second Hour	Stein & Stein chapters 3 and 4 – “Religious Symbols” and “Ritual” sacred art, space and time; music and dance
5. October 6	
First Hour	Stein & Stein chapter 4 – “Ritual” – rites of passage
Second Hour	TERM TEST There is no class on October 13, Thanksgiving Day.
6. October 20	
First Hour	Marx and Freud
Second Hour	Stein & Stein chapters 5 and 6 – “Altered States of Consciousness” and “Religious Specialists” – shamanism
Part Two	
The Social Organization of Being Religious	
7. October 27	RESEARCH ESSAY -- This week is the deadline for choosing a topic for the research essay, either a pre-approved topic or an original topic which must be approved by the instructor by noon on Thursday October 29.
First Hour	Institutionalization of religion: typologies of religious organization the study of religious forms in contemporary society from church-sect to NRMs
Second Hour	Stein & Stein chapter 7 – “Magic and Divination”
8. November 3	
First Hour	Religiosity: measuring the religious variable Becoming religious: socialization and conversion, considering the individual
Second Hour	Stein & Stein chapter 8 – “Souls, Ghosts, and Death”
Part Three	
Religion and Social Change, Tradition and Modernity	
9. November 10	
First Hour	Religion and social integration – beyond Durkheim the Civil Religion thesis
Second Hour	Stein & Stein chapter 9 – “Gods and Spirits”
10. November 17	

First Hour **ESSAY DUE** by noon on Thursday November 20.
Religion and social transformation – beyond Marx and Weber
fundamentalism, capitalism, liberation theology, social gospel,
civil rights, apartheid; politics, economics, stratification, etc.

Second Hour Stein & Stein chapter 10 – “Witchcraft”

11. November 24

First Hour From Religion to Secularization to Spirituality
Secularization: a typology of theories, the decline thesis, the
transformation thesis, spirituality, NRMs

Second Hour Stein & Stein chapter 11 – “The Search for New Meaning”

Conclusion Summarizing and Looking Ahead

12. December 1

First Hour Completing the lecture series and the review of the text

Second Hour Review Session prior to the Final Examination

FAQs

1. Do I have to attend the lectures?

The content of the lectures constitutes “required reading”; so students need to attend or form partnerships. The instructor does not post power-point slides or full-text lectures on WebCT; but lecture outlines are posted.

The lectures constitute the first part of each class. They add essential theoretical and methodological material to the textbook. Some of that material will be on the Term Test and all the lectures are covered in the Final Examination. The lectures include discussion of issues related to religion in pluralist and more developed societies. For many students, they will also resource the Research Essay. They do not duplicate the textbook. The last hour of each class will allow for questions and discussion related to that week’s readings.

2. Do I need the textbook?

Yes.

3. Is there a Term Test?

Yes. It will be given in class on October 6.

4. Is there a Final Exam?

Yes, to be scheduled in December.

5. Is there an Essay?

Yes. One. There is more information about this in a separate Handout.

6. Can I have an extension?

No. As the Handout says, “The late penalty for this assignment is 5% per day. If you are late due to a medical illness, staple your medical form to your assignment and late charges will not be enforced.

7. Where is your office?

In the Tory Tunnel. It is only hard to find the first time.

NECESSARY and IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a most serious academic offence. It occurs when a student passes off as one's own idea or product the work of another person without expressly giving credit to that person. This includes electronic plagiarism involving content lifted from the Internet. It is also an offence to present the same work to two or more courses without prior permission. See the Undergraduate Calendar, pages 56-58, for a full description of instructional offenses, and the procedures and penalties attached to them.

Accommodation

Students with **disabilities** needing academic accommodation are required to contact a coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre (501 UniCentre) to complete the necessary letters of accommodation. The students must then make an appointment to discuss their needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the term test. This is to ensure sufficient time is available to make necessary accommodation arrangements. These will be made as soon as possible. (See the Calendar, page 42.)

Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of **religious observance** should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor involved. The instructor will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Students who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton's Academic Accommodations policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department (503 Robertson Hall) for assistance. (See the Calendar, page 42.)

Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Academic Services

Students should be aware of such other support services as the Student Academic Success Centre (SASC): www.carleton.ca/sasc; Writing Tutorial Services: www.carleton.ca/wts; and Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS): www.carleton.ca/sasc/pass_home/index.html.

Majoring in Anthropology

For information about the various B.A. programs in Sociology and Anthropology, see the Undergraduate Calendar, pages 205-207.

Majoring in Religion

For information about the various B.A. programs in Religion and requirements for a Minor in Religion, see the Undergraduate Calendar, " pages 201-202.

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “to use and pass off as one’s own idea or product the work of another without expressly giving credit to another.” This can include:

- Copying from another person’s work without indicating this through appropriate use of quotation marks and footnote citations.
- Lengthy and close paraphrasing of another person’s work (i.e. extensive copying interspersed with a few phrases or sentences of your own).
- Submitting written work produced by someone else as if it were your own work (e.g. another student’s term paper, a paper purchased from a term paper “factory”, materials or term papers downloaded from the Internet, etc.).
- Handing in “*substantially the same piece of work to two or more courses without the prior written permission of the instructors...involved.*” (University Senate)

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They range from a mark of zero for the plagiarized work to a final grade of “F” for the course, and even suspension from all studies or expulsion from the University.

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B+ = 77-79 (9)	C+ = 67-69 (6)
A = 85-89 (11)	B = 73-76 (8)	C = 63-66 (5)
A - = 80-84 (10)	B - = 70-72 (7)	C - = 60-62 (4)
D+ = 57-59 (3)	D = 53-56 (2)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F	Failure. No academic credit
WDN	Withdrawn from the course
ABS	Absent from the final examination
DEF	Official deferral (see “Petitions to Defer”)
FND	“Failed, no Deferral” – assigned when the student is absent from the final exam and has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from Fall term courses is November 7th, 2008. Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter (full year) and Winter term courses is March 6th, 2009.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

For Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must contact a coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities to complete the necessary *Letters of Accommodation*. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet and discuss your needs with me in order to make the necessary arrangements as early in the term as possible. Please note the deadline for submitting completed forms to the Paul Menton Centre is November 7th, 2008 (for fall/winter term courses) / March 6th 2009 (for winter term courses).

For Religious Obligations:

Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious obligation should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student.

Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton’s Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance. (613-520-5622)

For Pregnancy:

Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to complete a **final** term paper or write a **final** examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control or whose performance on an examination has been impaired by such circumstances may apply in writing within five working days to the Registrar’s Office for permission to extend a term paper deadline or to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully and specifically supported by a medical certificate or other relevant documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar’s Office will be considered.

ADDRESSES

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Classics and Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar’s Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608	500 Unicentre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-6632	4 th floor Library